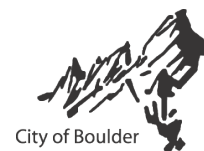


City of Boulder
Community Planning + Sustainability
Bag Use in Boulder
Public Meeting, April 23rd, 2012



Meeting Agenda:

- 5:30-5:40: Registration and Welcome
5:40-6:00: Presentation on options and clarifying questions
6:00-6:30: Small group discussions
6:30-6:45: Report out of small group discussions
6:45-7:30: General comments and Q&A session

Next Steps:

Environmental Advisory Board, April 26th, 6-8pm, Council Chambers – this meeting will include a public hearing

- The EAB will make a recommendation on the options to City Council.

City Council, May 15th, 6pm, Council Chambers - this item will be under “Matters from the City Manager”

- Council will be giving direction on the option and scope of that option for staff to further develop.
- Public wishing to comment on this item must speak during Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting.

Options:

1. A fee on disposable plastic and paper checkout bags
2. A ban on plastic bags with a fee on paper bags
3. A ban on both plastic and paper checkout bags
4. Education campaign
5. No action

OPTION 1: Fee or tax on plastic and paper bags

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retains customer choice – uses a market mechanism to incentivize behavior change• Significantly reduces uses of disposable bags while not making a judgment on which type of bag is the most sustainable option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires city resources to implement, administer and enforce• Possible opposition from the general public – seen as regulating personal choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents have adapted quickly in other communities• Option to allow retailers to retain some or all of the fee to offset implementation and administrative costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May affect low-income populations and tourists negatively• May not decrease bag use as dramatically as bans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option to recover costs to city organization for implementation and administration, as well as bag giveaways, litter cleanup, education or other designated purposes• Shifts bag use to a “polluter pays” model where users of disposable bags pay for the negative impacts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preferred ordinance option of large grocers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less opposition from the plastic and paper industries	

OPTION 2: Ban on plastic bags with a fee on paper bags

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will reduce the use of plastic bags and therefore contamination at recycling facilities and litter more than a fee• Residents have adapted quickly in other communities• Option to allow retailers to retain some or all of the fee to offset implementation and administrative costs• Option to provide revenue to city organization to cover implementation and administrative costs and for bag giveaways, litter cleanup, education or other designated purposes• Uses a market mechanism to incentivize behavior change• Shifts bag use to a “polluter pays” model where users of disposable bags pay for the negative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater retailer expenses due to higher cost of paper bags and needed checkout reconfiguration• Possible opposition from the general public – seen as regulating personal choice• May affect low-income populations and tourists negatively• Will not provide as much ability to offset costs of the fee program for the stores or city organization• Requires city resources to implement, administer and enforce• Least preferred ordinance option of the large grocers• Does not take life cycle costs into consideration

OPTION 3: Ban on plastic and paper bags

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will reduce the use of both plastic and paper checkout bags, and therefore contamination at recycling facilities and litter the most dramatically• Easiest to administer and enforce• Most progressive option – establishes Boulder as a leader on this issue• Possibility for an “emergency fee” to allow for a small amount of flexibility• Retailer cost of purchasing and stocking bags will decrease dramatically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires city resources to conduct education campaign and bag giveaways that are not offset by a revenue source• Possible opposition from the general public

OPTION 4: Educational campaign only

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preferred approach by the largest grocers• May increase disposable bag recycling• Little objection from the general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unlikely to result in significant reductions in disposable bag use• Requires city resources to conduct education campaign that are not offset by a revenue source

OPTION 5: No action

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No regulation or city resources needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental and economic costs to manage and dispose of bags continues